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(54) Upholstery tie

(57) An upholstery button tie consists of a loop of thread or filament 1, with one end attached to the middle of a long retaining bar 2 and the other end attached to a short bar 3 which in use retains an upholstery tie button.

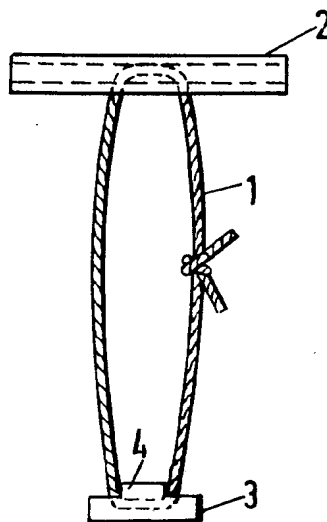


FIG. 1a.

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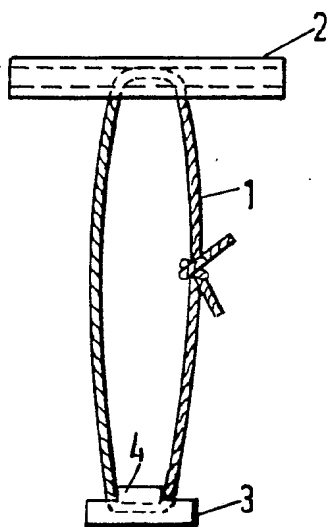


FIG. 1a.

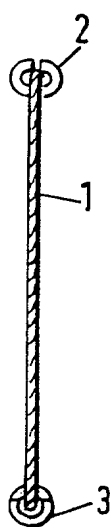


FIG. 1b.

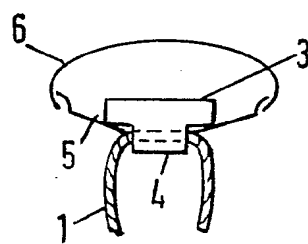


FIG. 2.

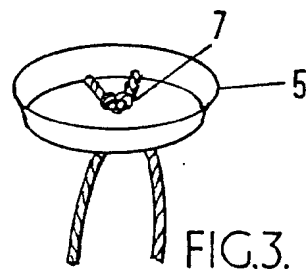


FIG. 3.

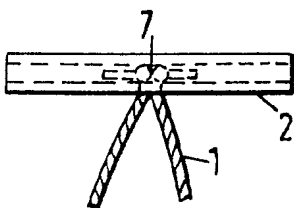


FIG. 4a.



FIG. 4b.

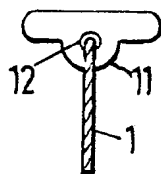


FIG. 8a.



FIG. 8b.

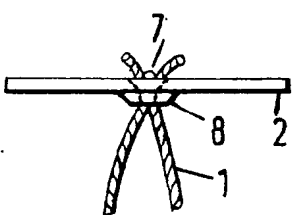


FIG. 5a.

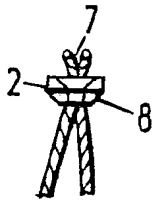


FIG. 5b.

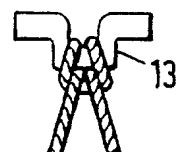


FIG. 9a.



FIG. 9b.

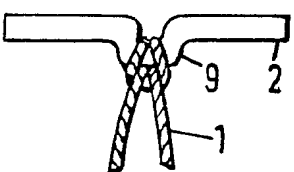


FIG. 6a.

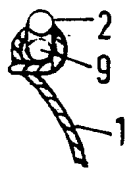


FIG. 6b.

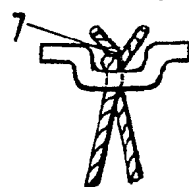


FIG. 10a.



FIG. 10b.

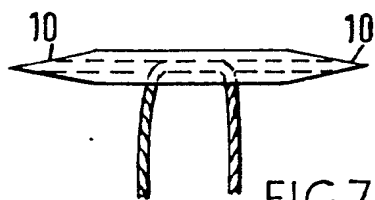


FIG. 7.



FIG. 11a.



FIG. 11b.

SPECIFICATION

Upholstery ties

5 This invention concerns ties for upholstery buttons.

According to the present invention, an upholstery button tie comprises a loop of thread or filament material, attached to a retaining bar at or near the middle of the latter. At a position remote from the retaining bar, the loop is attached to an upholstery button or to a head for attachment to a button.

Such a button tie is simpler and cheaper than known ties of similar strength and ease of use, for example tape ties with crimped metal or moulded plastics heads or retainers.

The loop is preferably made of nylon or similar material.

The long retaining bar is preferably of such transverse dimensions that it can be inserted into a tufting needle for passing the bar and the attached loop through a piece of upholstery. Alternatively, the bar can itself be pointed for passage through the upholstery.

Numerous forms of retaining bar and button head can be used, some of these being shown in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figures 1a and *1b* are two different views of a button tie embodying the invention,

Figure 2 is a cross section of an upholstery button secured to one end of a tie embodying the invention,

Figure 3 shows an alternative way of securing a button,

Figures 4a to *6b* show, in views corresponding to *Figures 1a* and *1b*, alternative retaining bars,

Figure 7 shows a further retaining bar, and

Figures 8a to *11b* show in views corresponding to *Figures 1a* and *1b* alternative heads for attachment to buttons.

Figures 1a and *1b* show a nylon loop 1 which interconnects a long narrow metal retaining bar 2 and a short metal head 3. The latter is formed from a H-shaped piece of sheet metal, the loop passing round the cross-piece of the H and the metal being crimped into a substantially tubular form to trap the loop and form an intermediate projection 4. In use, the head 3 is inserted into the dished back 5 of an upholstery button as shown in *Figure 2*, with the projection 4 fitting in hole in the button back to prevent the head from moving sideways, as disclosed in British Patent Specification No. 1,495,276. Since the nylon loop is outside the button back, it is unlikely to be frayed or cut by the edges of the hole in the button back, and the shape of the head 3 prevents accidental loss of the head from the button. The button back can be fitted either by having the retaining bar 2 passed through the hole in the button back from the front of the latter, or by having the head 3 fitted into the hole in the button back, from the back of the button, the hole being made large enough for this to be possible. The button top is shown at 6 in *Figure 2*.

The retaining bar 2 is also made from a generally H-shaped piece of sheet metal, with the loop passing round the cross-piece of the H and the metal being crimped into a tubular form to trap the nylon loop.

The edges of the retaining bar may be pressed on to the loop so as to prevent the latter from slipping. The cross-piece of the H forming the retaining bar is shorter than that of the head 3, so that a central projection is not formed on the bar and the latter is of substantially uniform transverse dimensions throughout its length. The transverse dimensions of the bar are such that it can be fitted into a tufting needle, for example as disclosed in British Patent Specifications Nos. 903464 and 1541077. The bar is long enough to provide a secure anchor at the back of a piece of upholstery.

Alternatively, as shown in *Figure 3*, the head 3 can be omitted, and the nylon loop secured to the button back 5 by placing the knot 7 that completes the loop, inside the button back, which in this case has a relatively small hole.

Numerous other forms of retaining bar and head are possible.

Figures 4a and *4b* show a retaining bar formed from a rectangular metal blank with a central hole in which the nylon loop is secured by its knot 7, the metal being then crimped around the knot to form a tubular retaining bar.

Figures 5a and *5b* show a flat retaining bar with a central hole in which the loop is retained by its knot 7. The central part of the retaining bar, in which the hole is formed, is dished as shown at 8 so that the knot will jam in the hole to locate the loop firmly.

The retaining bar 2 shown in *Figures 6a* and *6b* is of stiff metal wire with an offset central region 9 around which the nylon loop is hitched or knotted, the loop being held in its correct position by the offset central part of the bar.

Figure 7 shows a bar generally similar to that of *Figure 4a* but with sharp ends 10 so that the bar can be pushed through upholstery without the use of a needle.

Numerous other forms of retaining bar can be used. Bars similar to those shown in *Figures 5a* to *7* can be made of plastics materials. Bars of such materials can be attached to the nylon loop by being moulded on to the latter. Further forms of bar are disclosed in Patent Specification No. 1492850.

Figures 8a to *11b* show alternative heads for attachment to buttons.

Figures 8a and *8b* show a head of metal or plastics with a central projection in which is a hole 12 through which the loop passes. This head is used in the same way as the head shown in *Figure 2*. The nylon is knotted to form the loop, or the loop itself may be passed through the hole in the head and then threaded through itself (in the manner shown in *Figures 9a* and *9b*) to fasten it to the head.

Figures 9a and *9b* show a head made of metal wire, substantially like the retaining bar shown in *Figures 6a* and *6b* but shorter. The offset central region 13 of the head is to seat in the hole in the button back like the projection 4 in *Figure 2*. The loop is secured by being passed around the region 13 and then through itself.

Figures 10a and *10b* show a head of a shape similar to that of *Figures 9a* and *9b* but made of flat metal with a central hole, nylon twine of the loop being passed through the hole and being retained by

its knot 7.

Figures 11*a* and 11*b* show a head similar to that shown in Figures 1*a* and 1*b* but so designed that a central projection is not formed. The head is therefore generally similar to but shorter than the retaining bar 2 shown in Figures 1*a* and 1*b*.

Other forms of head for attachment to button backs can be used, for example with pointed ends as disclosed in Specification No. 1495276, or made as disclosed in Specification No. 1492850.

CLAIMS

1. An upholstery button tie, comprising a loop of thread or filament, attached at one end of the loop to a retaining bar at or near the middle of the bar, and attached at the other end of the loop to an upholstery button or to a button-retaining head.
2. A tie as claimed in claim 1 in which the other end of the loop is attached to a button-retaining head comprising a bar shorter than the first-mentioned bar, the loop being attached at or near the middle of the said shorter bar.
3. An upholstery button tie substantially as herein described with reference to any of the embodiments illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

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